

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A scanner, comprising:

a housing;

a carriage which is movable inside the housing; and

5 a scan-starting device, which is used to start the scanner to proceed scanning,
the scan-starting device comprising:

a key section situated on the housing for the user to press down; and

a triggering section situated on the carriage and is used to receive the
triggering coming from the key section to start the scanner to proceed scanning.

10 2. A scanner according to claim 1, wherein the key section comprises:

a key, which is installed on a panel of the housing via an elasticity device; and

a plate, which has a hole passing through the panel to join up with the key to
form a unity, and is movable back and forth inside the panel.

3. A scanner according to claim 2, wherein the triggering section comprises
15 a sensor, the sensor comprising an emitter and a receiver, installed on a circuit board
of the carriage.

4. A scanner according to claim 3, wherein the sensor is an infrared sensor.

5. A scanner according to claim 3, wherein the emitter continuously emits a sensing signal allowing the receiver to start the scanner if the sensing signal is received by the receiver when the user presses the key and moves the hole to a position between the emitter and the receiver.

5 6. A scanner according to claim 5, wherein when the carriage is back to a home position near the panel, a plate's solid section is inserted between the infrared sensor emitter and infrared sensor receiver, making the infrared sensor receiver change its status from infrared receiving to non-infrared receiving, thereby generating a halt-triggering signal which brings the carriage back to the home position and halts it.

7. A scanner according to claim 2, wherein one end of the elasticity device is fixed to the outer edge of the panel while another end to the key.

8. A scanner according to claim 1, wherein the key section is a key with a rod section; the key is installed in a panel of the housing with the rod section passing through the panel, allowing the key to move back and forth in the panel.

9. A scanner according to claim 8, wherein the carriage comprises a circuit board while the triggering section is a start-triggering switch installed on the circuit board.

10. A scanner according to claim 9, wherein the start-triggering switch is not triggered unless the force exercised on the key by the user exceeds a fixed value.

11. A scanner according to claim 8, wherein the circuit board further comprises:

a first conductor and a second conductor, which are electrically connected to a home position suspending circuit of the circuit board; and

5 a third conductor, which is installed on the inner-surface of the panel and corresponds to the first and second conductors, forming a channel together with the first conductor, the second conductor, and the home position suspending circuit when the carriage returns to the home position near the panel, thereby allowing the first and the second conductors to contact the third conductor, in the meanwhile, the home position suspending circuit generates a channel signal to be sent to the circuit board to
10 bring the carriage to the home position and halts it.

12. A scanner according to claim 11, wherein both the first and the second conductors are arc-shaped.

13. A scanner according to claim 12, wherein the longitudinal length for
15 both the first and the second conductors is of a first length, and the key's rod section is of a second length greater than the first length.

14. A scanner, comprising:

a housing;

a carriage, which is movable inside the housing; and

a homing device, which is used to bring the carriage to a predetermined home position, the homing device comprising:

a trigger section, which is situated on the carriage; and

a rod section, which is situated on the housing, wherein the carriage keeps moving until the rod section touches the trigger section under the homing mode of the carriage.

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